



EVEN PRICE OF PEACE RISING

While reports heard along Parliament Hill now indicate a widespread belief that the immediate threat of war in Europe seemed to be passing yet there are apparent necessary preparations being made for an all-important regional security pact as the best guarantee against another world war, with the Canadian Government prepared to recommend to Parliament this country's participation in such a pact. As a result, among other obligations arising from such a move would be considerable financial cost and there are now hints heard that anticipated tax cuts in the coming budget may be affected rather deeply in order to meet the bills which Canada will have to share to assume security on this basis. Tax reductions, in face of the current surplus may not be too impressive it is forecast here.

MORE CHANGES LATER

With Rt. Hon. Louis St. Laurent becoming Canada's 12th Prime Minister since Confederation upon the retirement of Premier King, many changes in the ministry and elsewhere may not be made, it is feared here because these will be held for the eve of the next general election when the 29th Parliament will be dissolved so that the present coming reorganization of the cabinet until such time is considered here by observers as temporary, particularly since additional changes are relatively certain.

PREPARE FOR EMERGENCY

Establishing his headquarters in this capital Maj. Gen. F. F. Worthington has started to co-ordinate civil defence measures just in case an sudden emergency will require such plans in case of crisis of disaster striking at the people. With this objective, he is setting up key civilian units across Canada to be in readiness for anything to happen. This does not mean a new organization is being built up but rather that he is planning to bring about co-operation between the various existing bodies, such as the Red Cross, St. John Ambulance etc. The ARP may come into existence again.

FOOD CONTRACTS

The British and Canadian Governments are planning to start renegotiating food contracts shortly. It is understood here and a British mission is expected to arrive soon to carry on such negotiations with the mission possibly including Foreign Minister Strachey and other top officials of the United Kingdom.

It is also known that whether the contracts for 1949 will be large or small may depend on the availability of dollars since it is believed that if Britain succeeds to "defreeze" the remaining \$70,000,000 of the

Canadian loan to the United Kingdom which was "frozen" last spring when Canada became involved in serious currency problems of her own, the food contracts may be larger. On the other hand, if this is not done the contracts may be smaller.

In any event, it is evident in the capital that these new food contracts are regarded as extremely important and the negotiations appear to be arousing much widespread interest because it is no longer a secret that such contracts have played a vital role in the dramatic efforts to keep prices of farm products on a higher level, if possible, than would otherwise have been the case. These deals are not only important to the farmer but also to the consumer in this respect it is emphasized here.

THEY'RE STILL SPENDING

According to the latest nation-wide there is considerable spending on the part of the general public though there is loud complaining about rising prices. In fact it is learned that in the first nine months of this year ending September, retail sales increased 11% in dollar volume as compared with a year ago during the same period, with gains every where across the country, including 14% in Ontario, 13% British Columbia, 9% Quebec and Prairie Provinces and 6% Maritimes.

Looking into the situation closely it is found that women spent most since women's wear stores increased their sales by 17% in this period so far this year whereas lines catering to men did much less business. Other gains recorded in the present year include variety stores 14.8%, food stores 14.1%, department stores 12.6%, family clothing 8.7%, hardware 8.2%, country general stores 8.1%, men's clothing 8% drug stores 7.8%, shoe stores 5.1% radio and electrical stores 5.5%.

NEXT SESSION

Events surrounding the three by-elections scheduled to be held in Carleton Ont., Marquette, Man., and Laval-Two Mountains Que., on Dec. 20 are interpreted as suggesting an early session of Parliament sometime in January. It also means that Hon. George Drew may win a seat in time to lead the Progressive-Conservatives in the House of Commons when the session opens, with Mr. Drew and Mr. St. Laurent having conferred here prior to the announcement of these by-election dates. Another interpretation here of disclosures in this announcement is that the entry of Manitoba's Premier Stuart Garson into the federal cabinet if he wins one of the by-elections is that the Government is going all-out to better Dominion-Provincial relations since Mr. Garson is recognized as a strong proponent of improving such relations.

HINT OF NEW PACT

With the return to power in the United States of President Truman and his Democratic Party, there is a hint along Parliament Hill that negotiations may be in the making to bring about a brand new trading agreement between Canada and the U.S., especially since there is much dissatisfaction here in the currency problem being aggravated by Canada's

constantly buying more in U.S. than the latter does in Canada. Obviously those in the saddle want an arrangement whereby a more lasting cure is found than mere import restrictions and they feel that trading relations should be on a basis so that more secondary and manufactured goods from Canada goes to the U.S. without concentrating almost entirely on raw Canadian materials. It is said that these negotiations were only delayed on account of the election in the U.S.

WEEKLY WIND-UP

In face of the revised rental regulations, there is no great "rush" by landlords to evict tenants from homes they can now obtain, it is learned here.

The Defence Medical Association is ready to meet any "national emergency" and the body was given an "off the record" talk here by Defence Minister Claxton on the part medicine would be called upon to play in the event of another war.

The garbage can is doomed to extinction in time judging from predictions at a meeting here of the Canadian Institute of Sewage and Sanitation.

Marshall Plan aid is bringing good results and helping Italian recovery in many ways, according to the new Italian Ambassador to Canada, Mario di Stefano who has taken up his new duties in Ottawa.

Though no official statement has been made so far, it is understood here that the financial terms of Newfoundland's entry into Confederation as the 10th province have been discussed here at a meeting of the cabinet committee and the representatives of Newfoundland who, rumor says want better financial terms.

Widespread stories that Canada has allowed former German Storm Troopers to get into this country as Displaced Persons are completely unfounded on fact, it is stressed here by officials who should know.

A training camp devoted entirely to winter warfare will be opened at Petawawa, Ont., early next year, it is learned here, and this will be part of a larger scheme in which each of the five army commands will develop its own winter warfare training.



On Remembrance Day, November 11, the local Legionnaires gathered in the Hungarian Hall at 6:30 p.m. for their annual banquet to which all war veterans of the town and district were invited as well as the leaders of the local service clubs and civic officers.

The Hall was appropriately decorated for the occasion: the Union Jack and plaque bearing the names of the fourteen who made the supreme sacrifice in World War I formed the background of the head table.

The Hungarian Mutual Sick Benefit Association served the splendid dinner with ladies in charge being Mrs. Hallas, Mrs. Nemeth, Mrs. Gysin, Mrs. Ruszar and Mrs. Rypar.

Following the dinner and toast to the King, solo singing was rendered by Comrade Peter Vanderhill.

Two main speakers of the evening were E. M. Peterson, president of the local branch of the Canadian Legion and Ray Atwood, chairman of the Building committee, the former reviewed the Branch activities of the past year while the latter gave a detailed account of the progress in construction of the Legion Memorial hall.

The Legionnaires cheered when hope was expressed that the next general meeting of the Legion might be held in the basement of the Memorial Hall on the regular Legion night, namely second Wednesday of the month or December 8th.

Appointment of a Nominating Committee consisting of Comrades Melvin Depew, chairman; M. Smith and Paul Evans was announced at the meeting. The committee is to nominate a new slate of officers for 1949.

The election of new officers will then be carried out during the general meeting on December 8th.

Following the banquet, a successful public dance was held in the Opera House with the music by the local orchestra.

The poppy campaign carried out on Saturday, November 6th, was a marked success. The Legion Executive is well pleased with the support given by the general public and here by wishes to express its sincere appreciation of the support.

This opportunity is taken to acknowledge receipt of further donations to the Legion Memorial Hall (continued on next page)

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